

Aug. 24, 2013

Ovid Vickers
[REDACTED]

Sir:

I was scratching through some old papers and came across this 1934 correspondence from people writing my grandfather W.C. Mabry about an opening at ECJC. There is also a telegram and letter from Pat Harrison about federal funds.

You probably have more of this stuff than you could use in your history, but the college archives may have a drawer with enough room for it. At any rate, I submit it to your care. If it's too trivial for any other use, feel free to burn it.

Kent

Kent Prince
[REDACTED]

Kent Prince is the son of Winter Prince who for many years owned and edited the Newton Record. Kent's mother was the daughter of W.C. Mabry who was, during the 1930s, Chairman of Board of Trustees of East Central Community College.

Kent has donated this collection of correspondence from his grandfather, from job applicants, and from U. S. Senator Pat Harrison.

Kent worked for many years for the Associated Press.

Ovid Vickers

8-29-13

PAT HARRISON, MISS., CHAIRMAN
WILLIAM H. KING, UTAH
WALTER F. GEORGE, GA.
DAVID I. WALSH, MASS.
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BENNETT CHAMP CLARK, MO.
HARRY FLOOD BYRD, VA.
AUGUSTINE LONERGAN, CONN.
HUGO L. BLACK, ALA.
PETER G. GERRY, R. I.
JOSEPH F. GUFFEY, PA.

JAMES COUZENS, MICH.
HENRY W. KEYES, N. H.
ROBERT M. LA FOLLETTE, JR., WIS.
JESSE H. METCALF, R. I.
DANIEL O. HASTINGS, DEL.
ARTHUR CAPPER, KANS.

FELTON M. JOHNSTON, CLERK

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Gulfport, Miss.,
November 20, 1935.

Mr. W. C. Mabry,
Newton,
Mississippi.

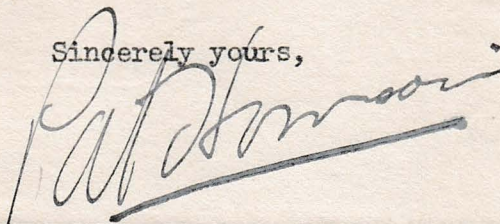
Dear Mabry:

I appreciate your letter of recent date, which has just come to my attention on my return here from a trip up into North Mississippi.

I certainly appreciate the fine sentiments expressed in your letter, and was sorry I did not get to confer with you privately when I was at Newton.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Pat Harrison", written over a horizontal line.

Newton, Mississippi.
December 27, 1935.

Senator Pat Harrison,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Harrison:

I know you are a busy man, and have no time to spend on matters of lesser importance, but I have a matter of considerable interest to the people of this section of our state, which, if possible, I shall appreciate you giving a few minutes personal attention.

The proposition in mind is the question of securing the WPA funds for East Central Junior College located at Decatur. This institution is supported by five counties and some time ago at a meeting of the trustees and supervisors from all these counties, this move was unanimously indorsed by all and a resolution to that effect was mailed to your office in Washington.

It seems that some have the idea that Federal funds are available, but that as chairman of the board of trustees, I am not pushing it as I should; and too, the impression seems to prevail that you, with your prestige in Washington could speak the word to "The Powers that Be" that would "Turn the Trick".

About four hundred freshmen and sophomore students attend this school and they are greatly handicapped for the lack of room. If you can consistently do so, I believe it would be a worthy cause and also that it would build up "The Harrison Stock" in this group of counties for you to have these funds allocated to this project.

I am sure you are familiar with the proposition in question as I have been informed that some of the Junior College men have conferred with you in regard to the matter, therefore, unnecessary for me to go into details at this time.

I am writing this letter in a suggestive spirit, and I you will receive it in that light and consider it for whatever may merit in your estimation.

With kindest personal regards, and best wishes for your future success, I am,

Your friend,

W.C. Mabry, Sr.

WCM:A

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable sign above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION

R. B. WHITE
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

SIGNS

DL = Day Letter
NM = Night Message
NL = Night Letter
LC = Deferred Cable
NLT = Cable Night Letter
Ship Radiogram

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is Standard Time at point of origin. Time of receipt is Standard Time at point of destination.

Received at

No 1 JZ TG CK 30 Govt DL

Washington DC 556P Dec 30 1935

Hon W C Mabry
Newton, Miss

In company with governor Elect White called on the president and other authorities relative allocation pwa funds for Junior colleges doing everything possible to secure favorable action at coming session

Pat Harrison USS

THE QUICKEST, SUREST AND SAFEST WAY TO SEND MONEY IS BY TELEGRAPH OR CABLE

United States Post Office

CLASS

(1923)
B.S. Degree, S.C., Hattiesburg, Miss.
(1927) M.A. + Ph.D. (1930) Degrees, Peabody College,
Nashville, Tenn.

4 yr. as Supt. of high school

3 yr. as college teacher and
University professor

(2 yr. as Head of the Dept. Math.,
University of Miss.)

At present employed as a
research worker by the
Tenn. Valley Education
Commission, Nashville, Tenn.

M.C. Rhodes

35 yrs. of age, married, and have one
1 child.

WHEREAS, a large number of students who are residents of Leake County, Mississippi, have been attending the East Central Junior College and Agricultural High School at Decatur, Mississippi, without being required by said institution to pay tuition therefor, and

WHEREAS, in the establishment of Junior Colleges in Mississippi in 1928 and at other times, Leake County was allotted to and designated a part of the East Central Junior College Area, and a "gentleman's agreement" was entered into that the other counties named in said area would, by an order entered by the County Boards Of Education, join the county securing the location of the college in the support of said college, and would urge the Boards of Supervisors to make a suitable Junior College maintenance levy for the support of said college, and ~~XXXXXX~~

WHEREAS, East Central Junior College has met every reasonable requirement made of it, and has extended the facilities of the college to our boys and girls, without the support fund from Leake County,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF LEAKE COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI, in session at Carthage, in said state, that we now desire to join with Newton County, Mississippi, in the support and maintenance of East Central Junior College and Agricultural High School, and we hereby do join ~~the~~ said Newton County in the said support and maintenance of said college and Agricultural High School, and we hereby request and urge that the Board of Supervisors of Leake County, Mississippi, at their next regular tax levying meeting make and enter a suitable levy for the support and Maintenance of East Central Junior College and Agricultural High School, and that the millage of said levy be in such an amount as the Board of Supervisors may at that time find to be just and equitable, and as conditions will at that time warrant.

Ordered by the Leake County Board of Education in regular session this June 15th, 1933.

President.

MERIDIAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

MERIDIAN, MISS.

Meridian, Mississippi,
February 22nd, 1934.

Hon. W. C. Mabry, Postmaster,
Newton, Mississippi.

My dear Mr. Mabry:--

I am informed that you are considering for the head of the Agricultural High School and Junior College, at Decatur, Mr. J. C. Hood, of Quitman, Mississippi.

Permit me to state that I have known Mr. Hood for fifteen years and consider him one of our best qualified and most efficient school men. His experience has been broad and he has pulled two bad situations into first rank.

Mr. Hood is a careful, painstaking, hard-working and thoroughly in touch with what constitutes a good school man, and would render you good service.

While Mr. Hood has not been connected with a Junior College's work, he is a hard worker and studies his job. He knows folks and can get along with them. His strongest point is in his showing to the student body his high ideals and the high standards for which young manhood stands.

I shall be glad to answer any questions about Mr. Hood you would care to ask me.

Wishing your Board much success, and with every good wish, I am,

Yours very truly,

J. M. Long

Superintendent. *S*

HMI/S

CLARKSDALE CITY SCHOOLS

H. B. HEIDELBERG, SUPERINTENDENT

CLARKSDALE, MISSISSIPPI

February 22, 1934

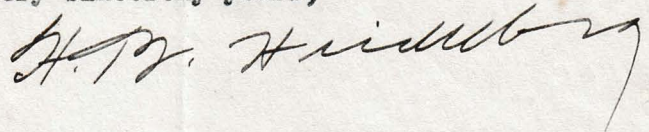
Mr. W. C. Mabry
Newton, Mississippi

My dear Mr. Mabry:

I am taking the liberty of addressing you, without solicitation on your part, to recommend for the consideration of the Board of Trustees of the agricultural high school and junior college located at Decatur Mr. C. E. Hood, Superintendent of Schools at Quitman.

I have known Mr. Hood for a number of years and I am in position to have accurate information regarding his ability and success as a school man. I originally came from Clark County, in which Quitman is located, and, as I have returned there on visits from time to time, I have secured first-hand and reliable information regarding Mr. Hood's ability and character. He is held in high esteem by the people of Quitman and Clark County. His standing among other school superintendents is good. He is able, honest, sincere, aggressive, and has plenty of backbone in times of crisis. In my judgment, Mr. Hood would make an ideal superintendent, or president, of your institution.

Very sincerely yours,



HBH/a

CHOCTAW COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

H. A. FOWLER, *Principal*
BUTLER, ALABAMA

January 27, 1934

Mr. W. C. Mabry
Newton, Miss.

Dear Mr. Mabry:

I am filing formal application with you for the superintendency of the junior college located at Decatur, Miss. At your convenience I shall thank you to submit my application to the board for due consideration.

In regard to salary, I presume it is the policy of the board to set the salary for each succeeding superintendent. I am, therefor, leaving this matter in the hands of your board, feeling sure that proper consideration will be given to it, and adjustments, if any, can be satisfactorily arranged.

I am enclosing a personal information sheet and testimonials, covering a part of my work in the schools of Alabama.

Thanking you for any consideration which your board may give to this application, I am

Yours very truly,



H. A. Fowler

HAF/ns
Enc.

Georgia School of Technology
Atlanta, Ga.

February 28th, 1934.

My dear Sir:-

Your name has been handed me in connection with that of the East Central Junior College to which I am writing concerning vacancies which may occur in Faculty in Mathematics. I hold M. A. (Duke 1930) and B. S. (Emory 1928) Degrees, and for the years 1930-31-32 was Instructor in Mathematics at the Georgia School of Technology, since that time having studied at Princeton University. I am writing the Superintendent of the College and am sending you similar list of references.

Thanking you for your attention, I am,

Truly yours,


H. M. Cox,

223 Highland Avenue,
Toccoa, Georgia.

TO: ,

Mr. W. C. Mabry,
Newton, Miss.

Graduate Courses in Mathematics taken at Duke University while a Teaching Assistant in the Mathematics Department during the year 1929-30 and summer of 1930:-

Advanced Calculus - Prof. Elliott and Prof. Hickson.

Analytical Mechanics - Prof. Collins.

Functions of a Complex Variable - Prof. Robison.

Integral Equations and Differential Systems - Prof. Elliott.

Thesis completed and accepted. All grades very satisfactory.

Academic Year 1928-29 Teacher of Science and English at Emory University Academy, Oxford, Georgia.

Academic Years 1930-31 and 1931-32 were spent as Instructor in Mathematics Department of Georgia School of Technology.

Graduate Courses in Mathematics taken at Princeton University as member of the Graduate College during the year 1932-33:-

Algebra - Prof. Wedderburn.

Tensor Analysis - Prof. Thomas.

Functions of a Real Variable - Prof. Church and Prof. Hille.

Continuous Groups - Dean. L. P. Eisenhardt.

Grades were satisfactory in all work taken.

COPY

May 25, 1932.

This is to certify that Mr. H. Miot Cox has been Instructor in Math. at Ga. Tech for the years 1930-31, 31-32. His work has been satisfactory and is leaving only because the teaching force is being reduced for next year.

Very truly yours,

FLOYD FIELD, Prof. of Math.

Prof. H. K. FULMER, in charge of Freshman Courses, Ga. School of Tech., states: "We found Mr. Cox prompt, industrious and capable in fulfilling his duties while here. He has cooperated with the Department in every way possible and has proven himself agreeable and courteous at all times . . .".

COPY

March 3, 1929.

To Whom It May Concern:

This is to certify the Mr. H. M. Cox has been with Emory University Academy since September 1928.

During his stay here he has won the respect, love and confidence of faculty and students.

His strength as a teacher seems to lie in his thorough knowledge of Mathematics.

I consider Mr. Cox a very fine young man. His disposition is fine, indeed, and he cooperates in every form of school life.

Thanking you for any favors to him, I am

Yours truly,

A. W. REES, Principal,
Emory University Academy.

REFERENCES:- Dr. W. W. Elliott, Dr. E. R. C. Miles, and
Dr. A. O. Hickson of Duke University, Durham, No. Ca.
Prof. Douglas Rumble and Dr. E. F. Messick of
Emory University, Emory University, Georgia.

July 18th, 1932.

Mr. M. E. Morehead, Assistant,
State Superintendent of Education,
Jackson, Mississippi.

Dear Sir:

IN RE: Boarding Students-Agricultural High
School-Junior College.

I have your inquiry of the 15th inst., which is
as follows:

"Where an Agricultural High School--Junior College
is supported by a tax levy from two or more coun-
ties, who has a right to demand an audit of the ac-
counts of the boarding department and the inciden-
tal accounts of said school; the board of trus-
tees of the school, or board of supervisors of the
county in which the school is located, or the
boards of supervisors of all the supporting coun-
ties?"

O P I N I O N.

Agricultural High Schools and Junior colleges are
supported by taxation and from appropriations of public funds,
but none of the public funds can be used by such institutions
for the purpose of supporting or boarding students.

The board of students is a private affair and, while
under certain conditions a dormitory may be erected whereat
students can have an opportunity to procure board, yet, no part
of the public funds can be used to pay any part of such board of
such students. Since the boarding of students in dormitories
of Agricultural High Schools--Junior Colleges becomes a pri-
vate affair and is controlled by a contract between the board-
ing student and the person furnishing board, neither the trustees
of the school, nor the board of supervisors of the county where
the school is located has any authority over or any connection
with the boarding of such students. No part of the money paid
for board by any student belongs to the public, therefore,
neither the board of trustees nor the board of supervisors, as
representatives of the public, have any authority to direct an
audit of the accounts of any person boarding students at such
institutions. If a profit is made, it belongs to the party
furnishing board and not to the institution.

Yours very truly,

GREEK L. RICE, ATTORNEY GENERAL

Mill Creek Public School

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mill Creek, Oklahoma

Jan 15, 1934.

Mr H. C. Mabry

Newton, Miss.

Dear Mr Mabry,

You will no doubt be surprised to hear from me, but after hearing about the disturbance at Decatur, I just wondered if you were thinking of a change in the personnel. If so, I should like to be considered. Of course, I feel as though you know my qualifications, and too, you and I have talked over the school at various times.

I can see a great future in that school, and if there should be a vacancy, and I

Mill Creek Public School

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mill Creek, Oklahoma

was considered, I would want
to give my full time to the
school and not half time to the
school and half time to politics

I know I am Capable of
being the head of a school of
that kind, and I believe that
I can be of help to it.

I am writing you Confidentially,
And am asking you if I should
Apply for the place. If so, please
give me the Names and Address
of the trustees. I shall act upon
your suggestion —

I am doing fine as Superintendent

Mill Creek Public School

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mill Creek, Oklahoma

of this school and have been
elected here for another year.

Give all the boys my
best regards and I will
appreciate it if you will
treat this as I would like
for you to and I know you
will—

My wife joins me in regards
to you and yours—

Your friend

Isaac Walton

Mill Creek, Okla—

STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE

STATION A
HATTIESBURG, MISSISSIPPI

OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR

Dec. 27, 1933.

Hon. W. C. Mabry,
Newton, Mississippi.

Dear Mr. Mabry:-

I have learned that there might be a change made at the Junior College at Decatur this year, so in the event of a change, I shall like to mention to you again the name of a young man that I talked to you about once before. The young man that I have in mind is Robert Weems.

In the first place, I wish it understood that I am just interested in this matter as I am interested in the whole junior college program. If I could see you, I could discuss many things that I cannot write. I do not want it to appear that I am trying to defeat someone in order to get someone else elected. I have a very keen interest in Decatur, first, because it is my home school; second, I have friends connected with the school; and third, I want Decatur to take rank with the other junior colleges of the state.

There are several reasons why I am interested in Weems going to Decatur if you make a change. As I see the situation, the whole program must be rebuilt. It is going to take a man with wide experience to set the program up. Robert, due to the fact that he has wide experience in the schoolroom, as county superintendent, trustee, superintendent of of a large consolidated high school, is well trained to make a strong man for the place.

Mr. Weems stands high with the school men of the state. He has many contacts with the colleges of the state. He has a wide acquaintance in the four counties composing the junior college district. His training in college is of the highest type. He is a schoolman from the standpoint of scholarship. I feel like he is as well fitted as anyone you may consider. He would be able to appeal to all factions because people have confidence in Robert Weems.

Confidentially, our institution will look with favor on the elevation of this coming young man. Of course, our institution is not going to take a hand in the matter, but we are very proud of Mr. Weems.

With kindest personal regards, I remain,

Respectfully,

Bob Rivers

STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE

J. B. GEORGE, PRESIDENT

HATTIESBURG, MISS.

February 21, 1934

Mr. W. C. Mabry
Newton, Mississippi

Dear Mr. Mabry:

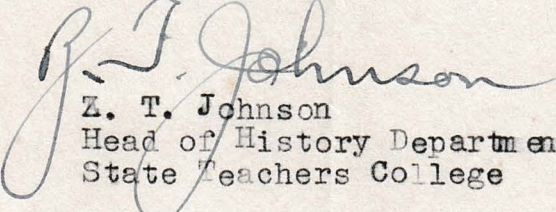
I understand that Mr. Martin L. Riley is an applicant for the position as president of the Decatur Junior College.

I would like personally to recommend Mr. Riley for this position. For three years he was my associate in the history department at State Teachers College, and I found him not only efficient in his work but continually improving himself. Although he acted in the capacity of a teacher, I believe Mr. Riley is especially qualified to hold an administrative position. He is congenial, enthusiastic, level-headed and a hard worker.

At the present time Mr. Riley is finishing the requirements for his Ph. D. at Louisiana State University. I believe you will make no mistake in selecting him to head your school.

With every good wish for the continued success of the operation of your college, I am

Cordially yours,


Z. T. Johnson
Head of History Department
State Teachers College

J. C. ROBERTS
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW
CLEVELAND, MISS.

Feb. 22, 1934.

Mr. W. C. Mabry,
Chairman Board of Trustees
East Central Junior College
Newton, Mississippi.

Dear Sir:

I have yours of the 20th, and I am replying at the earliest date possible, as I was in Jackson on yesterday and returned late last night.

Mr. J. C. Windham was the Superintendent of the Cleveland Consolidated School for a period of about fourteen years, and developed one of the best consolidated schools in the State.

During this period of time there arose certain objections to him as will occur to most vigorous school men. And there also arose certain rumors about the friendship of Mr. Windham for one of the lady teachers, and although the Board recognized him as a first class school superintendent in every respect, all the conditions taken together, seemed to justify a change.

As Chairman of the Board for practically the whole period while Mr. Windham was in Cleveland, I made every effort possible to assist him in securing another place, and in this effort, I was joined by at least two other members of the Board.

The rumors above referred to may or may not have been justified, but the Board acted for what it considered at that time the best interest of the school without any desire to do Mr. Windham any harm. And the fact that we made every effort possible to assist him in securing another school should indicate the impression the rumors made. I do not think that you can secure a better school man in the State of Mississippi.

Yours very truly,

J. C. Roberts

Chairman of Board of Trustees
Cleveland Consolidated School

JCR:L

Jackson, Miss.
February 19, 1934

Mr. W. C. Mabry,
Newton, Miss.

Dear Friend:

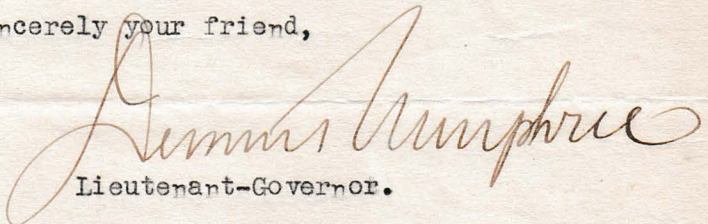
I understand that you are one of the Trustees of the Decatur Junior College and that you plan to elect a new President for that Institution next Friday.

This letter is to endorse the application which has been made by my friend, Martin L. Riley for the Presidency of this Institution. I served in the Legislature with Riley for eight years and I have been intimately connected with him and associated with him during the period since that time. He has had quite a lot of training and unusual experience, being a graduate of the State Teachers College at Hattiesburg, received his M. A. Degree from Peabody College, and has been a student in Louisiana State University from the summer of 1932, planning to complete his P.H. D. Degree. He taught school in Union County, was also Professor of History at State Teachers College, and has been Instructor of Education at L. S. U.

Riley served in the World War, and, as I said before, was a member of the Legislature, as well as a Director of Summer Normals in various places. He is a farm lad and has considerable farm experience.

With all of these things he is a capable, able, honest, intelligent and loyal man and I believe he would make an excellent man for the presidency.

Sincerely your friend,


Lieutenant-Governor.

DM:b

Rocky Creek Consolidated High School

—[SMITH-HUGHES]—

J. O. SNOWDEN, SUPERINTENDENT

Lucedale ~ ~ ~ Mississippi

February 21, 1934

Mr. W. C. Mabry
Newton, Mississippi
My dear Mr. Mabry:

I noticed in the paper that you were going to select a new superintendent for the Junior College at Decatur. I did not know before that this place was vacant, or I would have communicated earlier.

I am placing my application for this position, and I am mindful of the responsibility of the place. I feel certain that I am in position to do more for the school under the present conditions than practically anyone that you could select. I am prepared for the work. I will finish the academic requirements for my Master's Degree at Duke University next summer. I was in school there last summer. I have also had some work at the University of North Carolina. School Administration is my major subject. I have had experience as an executive in that I am, at present, superintendent of a school with an enrollment of 456 students. I have had five years of successful teaching, serving as superintendent all the time. My total experience is seven years. I am thirty-three years of age, married and in splendid health.

As you know, I finished high school at Decatur and there is no need for me to tell you the attachment I have for the school.

Rocky Creek Consolidated High School

SMITH-HUGHES

J. O. SNOWDEN, SUPERINTENDENT

Lucedale ~ ~ ~ Mississippi

Four members of the Board of Trustees of the Junior College know me personally, and I think you know that I will give you my dead level best in true honorable service. I am known to the people who send students to the school, and I believe that I have the ability to secure and hold the confidence of the people.

I can think of no honor that I would appreciate and try harder to merit than the honor of becoming the head of the school that has meant so much to me. That is one position that I could truly joyfully fill with untiring loyal service.

Mr. Mabry, I shall greatly appreciate anything that you may do for me. I shall thank you very much if you will present this application for me. I shall be glad to meet with the board any time you desire, if by chance you do not elect Friday. With personal regards to you I remain

Very sincerely your friend,

J. O. Snowden
J. O. Snowden.

P. S. I failed to mention that I received my B. A. Degree from the University of Mississippi.

J. O. S.